

## Message Text

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INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 OES-05 ARA-10 SP-02 INR-07 EB-07 DODE-00

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R 212304Z APR 75  
FM SECSTATE WASHDC  
TO AMEMBASSY MEXICO

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E.O. 11652: N/A  
TAGS: TSPA  
SUBJECT:OVERFLIGHT BY NASA CV-990 AIRCRAFT, CLEARANCE  
REQUEST  
REF: MEXICO 3172

1. IN SUPPORT OF NASA/EUROPEAN SPACE RESEARCH ORGANIZATION (ESRO) SPACELAB PROGRAM, NASA PLANS SEVERAL FLIGHTS USING CV-990 AIRCRAFT FOR AIRBORNE SCIENCE SHUTTLE EXPERIMENT SYSTEM SIMULATION (ASSESS) MISSIONS. PURPOSE TO SIMULATE CERTAIN ASPECTS OF SPACELAB MISSION WHILE CONDUCTING AIRBORNE SCIENCE RESEARCH IN INFRARED ASTRONOMY AND UPPER ATMOSPHERE PHYSICS.

2. TWO MISSIONS PLANNED IN PERIOD JUNE 9-21 REQUIRE OVERFLIGHTS OF MEXICO (A) ONE OR TWO FLIGHTS TO MAKE INFRARED ASTRONOMICAL OBSERVATIONS OF STAR R CORONA AUSTRALIA (R CRA), AND (B) ONE FLIGHT TO STUDY VARIATION WITH LATITUDE OF NEAR INFRARED AIRGLOW EMISSIONS FROM NIGHT SKY.

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3. THIRTY CM TELESCOPE ON BOARD AIRCRAFT BLOCKS ONE OF AIRCRAFT'S OVER-WING DOORS WHICH ARE PRIMARY EXITS IN

CASE OF EMERGENCY DITCHING IN WATER. BECAUSE OF BLOCKAGE, AIRCRAFT RESTRICTED TO LAND FLIGHTS OR CLOSE TO LAND. NO PASSENGER OR SERVICE DOORS BLOCKED. SAFETY OF AIRCRAFT NOT AFFECTED.

4. BECAUSE OF BLOCKAGE, TO OBSERVE R CRA, WHICH IS IN SOUTHERN SKY, NECESSARY TO FLY PATTERN ACROSS MEXICO RATHER THAN MORE ACCESSIBLE REGION OF PACIFIC OCEAN SOUTH OF CALIFORNIA AND WEST OF MEXICO. AIRCRAFT WOULD BEGIN FLIGHT IN CALIFORNIA ACROSS MEXICO TO POINT IN BAY OF CAMPECHE WHERE MEASUREMENTS WOULD BE INITIATED AND CONTINUE TAKE OBSERVATIONS ON RETURN FLIGHT ACROSS MEXICO AT APPROXIMATELY 20 DEGREES NORTH LATITUDE AND UP BAJA CALIFORNIA AND WEST COAST U.S.

5. BLOCKAGE ALSO RESTRICTS MISSION B (PARA 2 ABOVE) TO LAND AREAS. AT TIME OF FLIGHT (MID JUNE) NEAR SUMMER SOLSTICE, NIGHT SKY BECOMES BRIGHTER AS GO NORTH. PROPOSED FLIGHT PLAN WOULD TAKE AIRCRAFT DOWN U.S. WEST COAST TO POINT APPROXIMATELY 27 DEGREES NORTH AND 115 DEGREES WEST THEN UP ACROSS BAJA CALIFORNIA TO CANADIAN BORDER AT 115 DEGREES WEST LONGITUDE.

6. ALL FLIGHTS WOULD ORIGINATE AT NASA AMES RESEARCH CENTER, MOFFETT FIELD CALIFORNIA. ALL INSTRUMENTATION ABOARD FOR NIGHT OBSERVATIONS OF SKY FROM HORIZON TO ZENITH. NO REPEAT NO DOWNWARD LOOKING OBSERVATIONS. INSTRUMENTS INCLUDE SPECTROMETERS, INTERFEROMETERS, PHOTOMETERS, TV CAMERAS, PHOTOGRAPHIC CAMERAS AND ASTRONOMICAL TELESCOPE.

7. EXPERIMENTERS WHO HAVE BEEN JOINTLY SELECTED BY NASA AND ESRO COME FROM U.K., FRANCE, NETHERLANDS, CANADA, TANZANIA AND U.S. MAXIMUM COMPLEMENT 32.

8. REPRESENTATIVES OF GOM AND MEXICAN SCIENTIFIC COMMUNITY WOULD BE WELCOMED AS GUEST PASSENGERS ON PROPOSED OVERFLIGHTS.

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9. AIRCRAFT IS U.S. PUBLIC LAW CV-990 A, OWNED AND OPERATED BY NASA. REGISTRATION NUMBER N712NA, RADIO CALL NASA 712.

10. NASA IS AWARE PROBLEMS ON MEXICAN CLEARANCE AS INDICATED REFTTEL. WOULD APPRECIATE EMBASSY EFFORTS TO OBTAIN CLEARANCE. IF RESISTANCE STIFF, NASA WILL KEEP AIRGLOW

EMISSION STUDY TO WITHIN NORTH AND SOUTH BORDERS OF U.S. AND SELECT DIFFERENT INFRARED OBJECT FOR OBSERVATION.

11. NASA PILOT WILL FILE NORMAL INTERNATIONAL FLIGHT  
PLAN IF CLEARANCE APPROVAL RECEIVED. KISSINGER

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## Message Attributes

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**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
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**Draft Date:** 21 APR 1975  
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**Disposition Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
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**TAGS:** TSPA, OCLR, NASA  
**To:** MEXICO  
**Type:** TE  
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